

THE DAILY JOURNAL
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1890.WASHINGTON OFFICE—513 Fourteenth st.
P. M. Telephone Correspondent.Telephone Call.
Business Office—281 Editorial Rooms—282

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gence, fidelity and courage, the work of the Fifty-first Congress may be confidently submitted to the consideration of the people." But if the present duty is neglected the excellent record of the first session may be sadly marred, if not obliterated.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

President Harrison's second annual message is a perfect compliance with the provision of the Constitution which requires him to "give to the Congress information of the state of the Union and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient." It is a complete presentation of the condition of public affairs, and deals with some very important matters of legislation.

At the outset the President calls attention to the energy and faithfulness with which all branches of the government have been administered, and invites the closest scrutiny of Congress into every part of it. The collection and disbursement of more than \$450,000,000, without a single case of defalcation, is very convincing proof that the affairs of the government are honestly administered.

The review of our foreign relations shows them to be in a highly satisfactory condition. The traditional policy of the government to have friendly relations with all nations, and entangling alliances with none, has been admirably maintained. The international conferences held at Washington last year have produced good results, and are likely to yield lasting benefits. Our relations with Mexico are becoming so close and important that the President recommends raising that mission to the first class. Diplomatic correspondence is in progress with China looking to the adjustment of all questions relating to the protection of American citizens in that country. The Samoan treaty is producing salutary effects. The new extradition treaty with Great Britain is working well. Negotiations are pending with Spain for the enlargement of trade relations under the reciprocity provision of the new tariff law. The Behring sea controversy is progressing towards a favorable settlement. These are some of the salient points in the review of our foreign relations, which, as a whole, is of unusual interest.

The silver law enacted at the last session of Congress has been administered with the purpose of giving full effect to all its provisions. Its permanent effect on silver values is not yet determined, but for the present it is exerting a very beneficial influence on business and general values. The suggestion is made that the recent monetary disturbances in England may cause a revision of foreign opinion in regard to a bimetallic standard and open the way for the further progress of silver coinage. Referring to the possibility of establishing a uniform ratio of coinage, the President says: "Our very large supply of gold will, if not lost by impulsive legislation in the supposed interest of silver, give us a position of advantage in promoting a permanent agreement for free use of silver as a coin metal." This depreciation of "impulsive legislation in the supposed interest of silver" may be supposed to include any additional legislation on that subject that would tend to drive gold out of the country. From all that the President says on the silver question it is evident he thinks it would be wise to await the full development of the results of the present law before venturing any further in the direction of free silver coinage. "Impulsive legislation" in financial matters is very dangerous.

The review of the various department reports is more comprehensive and contains less repetition and detail than usual. Several important recommendations made by the different heads of departments are approved by the President, who, in some instances, adds brief and pointed arguments of his own to those submitted by his secretaries. The review of the work of the Agricultural Department and of the productive-ness of the country, including a glance at the business situation, exports and imports, etc., will be read with keen interest by business men.

The two points of greatest interest are the tariff question and the national election law, and on both of these the message gives no uncertain sound. They are handled with a frankness and vigor that bespeak strong conviction, and which cannot fail to command the approval of all who have the welfare and prosperity of the country at heart. It would be impossible to improve on the President's style of dealing with these questions or to epitomize his admirably condensed statements. Although he is known as possessing strong convictions on both questions, and little apt to be moved by ephemeral excitement and popular clamor, it is especially gratifying to observe the unflinching firmness with which he maintains the Republican position. He does not admit for a moment that the result of the recent elections was a verdict against the McKinley law, which had but just gone into effect and whose operation was unknown, and he says there is no wisdom in the suggestion that the subject of tariff revision shall be opened before the law has had a fair trial. "The mis-information as to the terms of the act which has been widely disseminated at home and abroad, will," says the President, "be corrected by experience, and the evil auguries as to its results, confounded by the market reports, the savings banks, international trade balances, and the general prosperity of our people." There has been no better statement of the case than this, and there could not be. The principle of protection and the McKinley law as its embodiment have had no braver or more effective champion than the President, and nowhere can there be found in the same space as many strong points in their favor as are so admirably presented in the message. It settles the position of the Republican party and of every person who claims to act within the organization.

The argument in favor of a national election law has never been as forcibly, concisely and eloquently presented as it is in the concluding part of the message. The question is discussed from a high plane of patriotism, and there is not the remotest suggestion of partisanship in anything the President says. His presentation of the cause of free and honest elections is the plea of a patriot for the preservation of the Republic. He shows that every principle and point embraced in the pending bill has been embraced in other laws or affirmed by the action of Congress, and that the present question is not "whether we shall have a federal election law, for we now have one and have had for nearly twenty years, but whether we shall have an effective law." The President insists that the enactment of such a law, absolutely non-partisan and just to all sections, is indispensable to the preservation of the government; for, as he says, "equality of representation and the parity of the electors must be maintained, or everything that is valuable in our system of government is lost."

Other important features of the message will be noticed hereafter. As a whole, we predict that it will receive the enthusiastic approval of Republicans, and that the most malignant opposition will attack it in vain. It is a very able and a thoroughly admirable message.

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THE PRESIDENT ON RECIPROCITY.

That portion of President Harrison's message devoted to the reciprocity clauses of the tariff law will meet with the hearty approval of all who believe that such can be done by treaties with independent nations to extend trade in those articles which we produce in such abundance as to have a surplus. Indeed, no portion of a message which is more emphatic and hopeful than the portion devoted to reciprocity. A number of critics have expressed the opinion that the duties should have been retained on sugar and other articles until the treaties for a free exchange had been agreed to by the governments whose peoples will be benefited by our free list; but President Harrison takes the other side, and gives the most cogent reasons why the policy of the present law is wiser than the other could be. The statement that those countries of which we purchase sugar and coffee fully appreciate the advantages we have extended and are ready to reciprocate affords ground for encouragement. Fortunately the President's advisers are devoted to the policy of reciprocity, and no efforts will be wanting to carry into successful operation a policy which is so popular and promises so much for agricultural and other interests. It is, in a certain sense, the good fortune of the Republican party that its opponents have discovered that reciprocity is simply an extension of the protective idea, and have declared against it. Their effusive support might have embarrassed those who are chiefly responsible for it. As it is, real reciprocity is as much a Republican policy as is protection.

DISQUALIFIED CRITICS.

Washington specials announce that Representative Oates, of Alabama, will present, at an early day, a bill imposing a tax upon all incomes of \$10,000 a year and upwards. He is moved to do this because of the Republican prodigality in regard to pensions, and because, as he asserts, the people of the South pay \$50,000,000 into the Treasury where they draw \$1,000,000 out. The bill is aimed at the pension expenditures, and is designed to add to the hostility which Democrats and mugwumps in the South and East are inciting against the present pension system. The authors of the present system, so far as it relates to the late war, are Republicans, and they have no apology to make therefor, because they appreciate the services of the men who derive the benefits of the law. But, if they were inclined to seek justification outside of the righteousness of the claims of the Union veteran upon the gratitude of the Nation, they could find it in the pension law so long urged by Democrats of the South and finally enacted, and approved by Mr. Cleveland. Reference is made to the Mexican pension law. As long ago as 1877 the Southern leaders were agitating the matter. Their first measure was a sweeping service pension bill which would have put the name of every man on the pension rolls who enlisted in the Mexican war, provided his name was on the rolls sixty days. They made a bitter fight to retain to Jefferson Davis that privilege, and nearly every Democrat who was in the Senate when the measure reached that body voted against a proposition to exclude him. Falling in this, they finally secured the passage of a compromise measure, which puts upon the pension rolls all Mexican veterans at that time under sixty-two years of age, if in need, and all, regardless of their circumstances, who had reached the age of sixty-two years, no matter if they had, subsequent to the Mexican war, served in the confederate army. That bill Mr. Cleveland made a law by his approval. If the Eastern mugwump and Cleveland newspapers, which are now assailing the present pension laws, had any objection to that measure, which is vastly more sweeping in its benefits than any law relating to Union pensioners, they did not express it. After the passage of such a measure, which would pension as many men who had been in the confederate army as were not, it was very natural that Union veterans and their friends should demand singular recognition. They did demand, and were denied at that time, but the justice of it made them more importunate. The present disability act is the result, and because of its provisions the Southern Democracy and Eastern mugwump papers cry out against it. Since the election a number of Northern Democratic papers had the courage to express their long-time hostility to the Union soldiers by denouncing them as pension-grabbers. And yet, under the present laws, the confederate who was a Mexican veteran has advantage over the Union veteran, since, if sixty-two years of age, he is a pensioner, while the Union veteran of that age is denied the boon. It is submitted, in all fairness, that the Southern Democrats, Mr. Cleveland and his Northern organs that are denounc-

ing the present laws pensioning Union veterans and stigmatizing those of them who seek pensions as mercenaries, are, on the grounds of consistency, stopped from all criticism by the Mexican pension law, for which they are responsible. If the provisions of that law applied to Union veterans at least fifty thousand of the 106,000 who are now over sixty-two years of age would to-day be pensioners.

DISTRIBUTION OF PENSIONS.

Time and again have the Democratic anti-pension papers declared that more pensions were granted in Indiana, according to the number of men in the service, than in any other State, the purpose being to make a basis for the charge that pensions are granted in this State to influence voters and not because the applicants were entitled thereto by the rules of the bureau. The following table, showing the number of soldiers furnished, the percentage of losses, and pensioners, from official sources, shows the falsity of such assumptions:

STATES.	Number of Soldiers.	Percentage of Losses.	Percentage of Pensioners.
New York.....	467,047	51.244	50.206
Pennsylvania.....	366,107	37.262	49.578
Massachusetts.....	152,048	18.438	21.891
Ohio.....	316,020	17.281	17.067
Illinois.....	289,147	36.655	39.948
Wisconsin.....	98,424	12.905	16.788
Indiana.....	197,147	27.555	47.798
Missouri.....	109,111	14.114	23.749
Michigan.....	69,279	16.621	18.722
Iowa.....	76,209	13.524	23.181
Minnesota.....	25,032	2.743	3.269

The official figures also show that during 1888, while General Black was in charge of the bureau, the increase of pensions granted in Indiana was about the same as has been granted the past two years while the bureau has been in Republican control, namely, 5,177 in 1888, 5,070 in 1889, and 5,590 in 1890. The increase in the pension agency which pays pensioners in Missouri and Kansas, neither of which is a doubtful State, is fully as large as in Indiana. No official figures can help those persons who are assailing the integrity of the adjustment of pension applications in the Pension Bureau.

POSTAL TELEGRAPHS AND SAVINGS BANKS.

Two points in the able and exhaustive report of the Postmaster-general are entitled to more than passing notice. The first, if not the most important, of these is his recommendation regarding a postal telegraph, which seems not to be generally understood. Briefly stated, Mr. Wanamaker's plan is for the government to contract with existing telegraph companies to send messages at rates fixed by it, all of which, except 2 cents a message for collecting and distributing, shall go to the companies. It is not proposed to have the government hire an operator or buy an instrument, much less lease a line. The plan removes all the objections which have been raised against previous propositions for a postal telegraph which involved the ownership of lines and the working of them by the government. There is reason to believe that the present charges of telegraph companies, though much less than they were years ago, prevent the more general use of the telegraph, and that its benefits would be widely extended if the cost of transmission could be reduced. As a matter of course, one of the objects of the Postmaster-general in proposing this plan—indeed, the main object—is to secure much lower charges for telegraph service. If that can be done, and no burden therefor is imposed upon the people, the plan of Mr. Wanamaker commends itself. The subject is attracting more attention as years pass and the public come to realize the advantages of telegraphic communication, and the number of people favoring and even demanding government control of telegraph is increasing.

Another subject which the Postmaster-general discusses as a business man of capacity and experience is the establishment of savings banks at postoffices. This matter has been urged upon Congress for several years. The regular savings institutions which will receive deposits of small savings are confined to the larger towns in a few of the older States. In the greater part of the country there is not an institution which will receive small savings, chiefly because it will pay no responsible person to attend to such limited business. The Postmaster-general says that places for the deposit of savings should be within an hour's walk of the home of every workman. It cannot be doubted that much of the thrift and economy in the manufacturing towns of New England and New York are due to the savings bank. Every government of importance has postal savings banks. Mr. Wanamaker suggests that such banks be provided for in States which have no adequate savings-bank system, so that there shall be one bank for every ten miles of area; that the Secretary of the Treasury shall establish the rate of interest to be paid to depositors; that all postal savings received within the State shall be placed on deposit with the national banks therein, on application, in such amounts and at such interest as the Secretary of the Treasury shall prescribe; and that such deposits shall be preferred claims against the banks. This seems a very practicable scheme. The depositors would have entire security; their money would always be available, and the aggregate of savings would be put into circulation again in the community where the deposits are made.

The President's message discloses, for the first time, the fact that Mr. Mizner, late minister to Guatemala, has been recalled. This was made necessary by the minister's action in ordering the surrender of General Barranda from a United States vessel, where he had taken refuge, and which was the immediate cause of the latter's death. The minister's act was so plainly in excess of his authority that the President disavowed it and ordered his recall. The main facts have been known for some time, and the minister's recall was expected, but has not been publicly announced before.

The President